

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

Please delete the paragraph on page 8, lines 5-7, and replace it with the following paragraph:

In a third aspect the invention provides a mutant BACE protein selected from: (a) SEQ ID **NO: 6**; (b) SEQ ID **NO: 8**; (c) SEQ ID **NO: 10**; (d) SEQ ID **NO: 12**; (e) SEQ ID **NO: 14**; (f) SEQ ID **NO: 16**; (g) SEQ ID **NO: 18**; (h) SEQ ID **NO: 19**; (i) SEQ ID **NO: 20**; (j) SEQ ID **NO: 21**.

Please delete the paragraph on page 20, line 25, to page 21, line 2, and replace it with the following paragraph:

The term "derivative" as applied herein to the BACE proteins of the invention is used to define proteins which are modified versions of the specifically exemplified proteins of the invention. Such derivatives may include fusion proteins, in which the proteins of the invention have been fused to one or more different proteins, peptides or amino acid tags (for example an antibody or a protein domain conferring a biochemical activity, to act as a label, or to facilitate purification). Particularly preferred are derivatives in which the peptides are modified by a polyHis (6xHis) tag (**SEQ ID NO: 42**) to facilitate purification of the peptide derivative on Ni²⁺ agarose beads.

Please delete the paragraph on page 25, lines 14-22, and replace it with the following paragraph:

The invention is exemplified by several constructs (SEQ ID **NOS 5-18**). These were built based on the wild type sequence (BACE WT, SEQ ID **NO: 2**) where R56 and/or R57 were mutated to K or deleted. These were BACE WT R56KR57K (SEQ ID **NO: 6**), BACE WT R57K (SEQ ID **NO: 8**), BACE WT R57del (SEQ ID **NO: 10**). This was also performed on the BACE construct BACE N->Q to give BACE N->Q R56KR57K (SEQ ID **NO: 12**), BACE